

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 28, 2011

The Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 is the primary Federal workforce development legislation, which authorizes and seeks to coordinate the delivery of Federal-funded workforce development programs, including its Adult and Dislocated Worker programs. Under WIA, each state must pass through at least 85 percent of its Adult allocation and 60 percent of its Dislocated Worker allocation to local Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs), which determine how the funds are used, subject to Federal requirements. Seven WIBs serve Los Angeles County, including the County's WIB, which serves all unincorporated areas and 58 cities within the County.

Senate Bill (SB) 776, authored by Senator Mark DeSaulnier, would impose new requirements that local WIBs spend at least 20 percent of their Program Year (PY) 2012 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding on training services, increasing to 40 percent of total funding by PY 2016. This new requirement is inconsistent with the

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intent of Federal law which provides for local control over the use of funds and with WIA's "work first" approach, which emphasizes job placement and retention. In fact, WIA prohibits training services from being provided to adults and dislocated workers until after they first received core services, such as job search and placement assistance, were unable to obtain or retain employment, and received intensive services, such as comprehensive assessments and development of individual employment plans.

Within the past two years, WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding has been reduced by over 17 percent, and Congress is expected to cut WIA funding even more in future years. Requiring local WIBs, including the County's, to spend a higher percentage of funds on training would greatly reduce their ability to use shrinking WIA funds to meet locally determined needs and priorities. It also could lead to the closure of many, if not most, of WIA's federally mandated One-Stop Career (WorkSource) Centers where individuals seeking employment receive seamless employment and training services, funded by WIA and many other programs, at a single location. Such centers heavily rely on WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funding for their operational costs. In fact, nearly two-thirds of total Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker funds allocated to WIBs in California were used to fund such centers.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter opposing Senate Bill 776, in its current form, to Governor Brown, the County's Legislative Delegation, and the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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